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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1870.

THE RICHMOND DISASTER.

THE terrible catastrophe that occurred yesterday morning at Richmond, Virginia, by the falling in of a portion of the Capitol building, will call forth the profoundest expression of regret and sympathy in all sections of the country. The melancholy character of the disaster has been intensified not merely by the fact that a large number of distinguished public men are among the sufferers, but that, of all other places in the country, it should have occurred in the late capital of the Confederacy. The people of the South have suffered so much both during and since the war, that no right-minded person can look upon such an additional visitation as this without more than usual feelings of pity, and a desire to aid, if possible, in the amelioration of the misery caused by the calamity. The conclusion of the war found Richmond in ruins and her people in poverty, and setting aside all political considerations, the victorious North owes it to itself, to the South, and to humanity, to do all that can be done, not only towards repairing the ravages of the war and laying the foundations of future prosperity in the late rebellious States, but towards cultivating a cordial and hearty sentiment of friendship between the two sections of the Union. The political controversies of the day have to some extent at least served to intensify the bitter feelings excited by the war, and many persons at the South are still impressed with the idea that they have nothing to expect from the North in the way of kindness or respect. This terrible catastrophe furnishes an excellent opportunity for such an expression of hearty sympathy and regard as will convince the people of Richmond and the whole South that, in spite of all differences past and present, we are disposed to regard them with none but the most fraternal feelings. It is almost certain that among the families of the killed and wounded of yesterday there will be many who greatly need assistance, and the condition of those injured could doubtless be much ameliorated by the prompt tender of pecuniary aid. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the expressions of sympathy in this and other cities will take a practical shape, and that a handsome sum of money will be made up immediately and forwarded to Richmond for the benefit of those who need it.

One of the lessons of this disaster is the necessity for the greater security of public buildings that are likely to be occupied by crowded audiences. The Capitol at Richmond was doubtless more or less injured during the war, even if its construction in the first place was all that could be desired. The probabilities are that all who were assembled in it were confident of its strength, and absolutely unsuspecting of danger; but with regard to many of our public buildings, it is certain that no such feelings of security are likely to prevail, and in many of them there is a constant apprehension of disaster. The laws on this subject should be stringent, and no building intended for the occupation of crowded audiences should ever be permitted to be used unless it is built in such a manner as to be absolutely beyond suspicion. Particular care should be taken in the construction of State, municipal, and national edifices that are expected to last for many years, and that will undoubtedly be called upon to bear a severe strain on many occasions.

REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES. EX-SENATOR BUCKALEW is untiring in his efforts to bring about a reform in our present political system. While a member of the National Senate he advocated the cause of minority representation whenever there was a shadow of an excuse for him to do so; but, in the whirl of party strife upon the great question of reconstruction but little attention was accorded him, save by a few thinking people here and there in the country, none of the measures which he introduced into the Senate, as was to have been expected, came to anything, and his six years' term expired without his being able to secure from the Senate, much less from the country, a patient hearing upon his peculiar hobby. But at the expiration of his national career as a legislator he entered upon a more contracted arena, where he at once began to devote his time and attention to his favorite project. The State Legislature of Pennsylvania, of the upper house of which he is now a member, proved willing to permit him to try an experiment, especially as it was upon a small scale and in no way interfered with the all-engrossing division of the spoils of legislative corruption.

Mr. Buckalew resides in the town of Bloomsburg, Montour county, and it was this town, where everybody knew him and by force of daily contact all were fully convinced of his sincerity in the advocacy of reform, that was turned over by the Legislature for the experiment. An act defining the boundaries and organizing the town of Bloomsburg was passed, in which it was provided that in the selection of the six members of the town council, each voter might cast one vote for each of six persons, one vote and a half for each of four, three votes for each of two, or six votes for one, at his option. This system is the one known in theory as the cumulative vote, and for the first time it has had a trial in the United States. It is to be regretted that the politics of Bloomsburg

were very much mixed up at the time of the election which was held there a few days ago, when the provisions of the new charter were put in force. If party lines had been strictly drawn, the operation of the system would have been much more definite and satisfactory; but, even as it was, the result of this first experiment at cumulative voting should command the attention of all good men who are anxious to see a decided reform in our present political system brought about. Under the old system, as the voting population of Bloomsburg is usually Democratic by a fair majority, the Democracy would have carried their whole ticket, and the Republican voters of the town, although comprising nearly one-half of the whole number, would not have secured a single representative in the Council. But under the cumulative system, it was in their power to concentrate their force upon less than the full number of persons to be elected, and, if they chose to do so to any considerable extent, it became an absolute impossibility for the Democracy to keep them entirely unrepresented. So the Democrats placed but three candidates for the Council in nomination, thinking it better to be sure of one-half of that body than to risk the election of two alone by attempting to secure the triumph of four. The opposition ticket contained four names, however, two of them being Republicans and two Democrats, so that there were, all told, five Democrats and two Republicans running for the six seats in the town council, while both the candidates for President—for which position the voting was done in the ordinary way—were of Democratic proclivities. As the result of the election for members of the Council, the three regular Democratic candidates, the two Republicans on the opposition ticket, and one of the Democrats on the latter ticket, were elected, and the Republican minority in Bloomsburg is fairly represented, as it should be. Although the names of the candidates are of no interest to the great world outside of Bloomsburg, we give them below, with the number of votes received by each, in order to illustrate the precise workings of the system of cumulative voting:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes Charles G. Barkley (Opp., Dem.), William H. Koons (Dem.), John Sharpness (Opp., Rep.), Caleb Barton (Opp., Rep.), Frederick C. Eyer (Dem.), Stephen Knorr (Dem.), S. C. Shive (Opp., Dem.), and Total votes.

When the system which here worked so well is extended to a larger constituency, it will readily be seen that its results might prove most satisfactory. Take, for example, the States of Massachusetts and Kentucky, the one largely Democratic, the other largely Republican. The present delegation from Massachusetts in the House of Representatives, ten in number, is entirely Republican; while the Kentucky delegation of nine members is entirely Democratic. At the last election in Massachusetts, the Republican candidates polled, in round numbers, 132,000 votes, while the Democratic candidates polled 60,000. Yet, the districts being so shaped that the Republican majorities were evenly distributed, every Republican candidate was elected by a large majority, and the 60,000 Democratic voters of the State are at this moment without a Representative in the national Capitol. If the delegation were a fair exponent of the political sentiment of the State, it would stand seven Republicans to three Democrats, and it would have so stood if the Democratic minority had been able, through the agency of the cumulative vote, to concentrate its strength upon three candidates who would have been certain of an election, instead of frittering it away upon ten, every one of whom was certain of being defeated. This is the argument from the Democratic standpoint, but from the Republican side it is equally forcible. At the last Congressional election in Kentucky the Republicans polled about 36,000, and the Democrats about 112,000, the Democratic majority being overwhelming in every district except the Eighth. In justice, the 36,000 Republican voters of this State were entitled to at least two Representatives, while the Democrats were entitled to but seven at the most. But, under the present system, which runs the theory of the rule of the majority into the ground, the 36,000 Republicans of Massachusetts are practically disfranchised, as far as national legislation is concerned, the wrong done in the case of the one being no less grievous than in that of the other. Thus far, the most practical remedy suggested for evils of this nature is the system of cumulative voting, but we fear that its general adoption is very far off in the future.

THE BRULES ON THE WAR PATH. THE amiable disposition of the gentle savages of the Brule band of Sioux Indians is well displayed in a despatch forwarded from Chicago yesterday containing intelligence sent from Fort Sully, by Gen. Stanley, on the 9th inst., to General Sheridan. The Brules are under the leadership of the chief who planned the attack at Fort Phil Kearney, and having massacred a company of United States soldiers when they were surrounded by more than ten times their number of his merciless confederates, he fancied himself able to defy the whole power of the Government. As an evidence of this disposition he carries matters with a high hand even at the gates of a national fort. He compels friendly bands of Indians assembled in the vicinity to abandon it, so that the white men may have no red allies near at hand. He threatens the invasion and destruction of adjacent reservations occupied by Indians who are now peaceably disposed. His warriors amuse themselves by flaunting in the face of the agent who represents the American people the scalps of white men they have killed. And we do not wonder, under these circumstances, that "General Stanley is firmly convinced that there can be no peace and no living near the hostile Sioux till they are soundly thrashed." It is the universal

experience of army officers who have been compelled to deal, practically, with similar bands of savages, that an overwhelming defeat is absolutely necessary to establish a harmonious understanding. Trained to rob and murder from their infancy, this training can only be counteracted by the severe punishment of their offenses. Taught to cherish a belief in the invincibility of their tribal organization, this belief can only be destroyed by an absolute demonstration of its fallacy. General Sheridan has undertaken to accomplish this essential task with the hostile Brules, and we hope he will succeed, despite all efforts that may be made to frustrate his plans, or to identify the cause of humanity with the merciless murderers whom he is about to prepare for a course of civilization.

SPAIN AS A REPUBLIC. SPAIN, according to the latest intelligence, appears to be gravitating towards a republic, although the rumors on this point are apparently entitled to as little credit as some others that have emanated from the same source. Procrastination has been the marked feature of the Spanish policy since the expulsion of the Queen; and even if a republic should be determined on, it would probably take a year or two to arrange a constitution and to put the new machinery into operation, thus affording France and other powers that might be opposed to such an arrangement an opportunity to put in their veto. It appears, however, that the people are beginning to be heartily sick of the Provisional Government, and to desire that their affairs shall be definitely settled in some way. One of the latest candidates for the vacant throne was Prince Frederick of Prussia, but the French Emperor, already jealous of the growing power and influence of Prussia, has entered such a decided protest that there is scarcely a probability that the Spaniards will risk exciting a conflict by choosing a king who will have the double disqualification of being a Protestant and inimical to France. The Regent Serrano, who is probably heartily sick of his job by this time, is reported to have declared himself in favor of a republic, provided General Prim will consent, and if these two leaders will unite upon such a solution of the Spanish problem, it is not improbable that they may succeed in carrying a majority of the nation with them. Whether Spain will be able to succeed under a republican form of government better than she has under the Bourbon monarchy and the regency of Serrano is one of the things that the future only can determine. A republic demands an intelligent and educated people, who know what their rights are, and how to maintain them, and few friends of republicanism will care to see it brought into discredit by a failure in Spain. From the way things have gone, however, during the last two years, the probabilities are that the Spaniards will be able to get along as well under a republican as under any other form of government, and it would be at all events gratifying if they could try the experiment, if only for the sake of putting an end to the present uncertain and unsatisfactory state of affairs.

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, NO. 126 CHESTNUT STREET. SHERIDAN'S RIDE. Great Life-size Painting of the PORT-ARTIST, T. BUCHANAN READ. NINTH WEEK OF THE EXHIBITION. The Poem recited at 12 M., 4 and 8 P. M., daily, by MR. J. B. ROBERTS, the eminent Tragedian and Elocutionist. The exhibition this week will be for the BENEFIT OF THE LINCOLN INSTITUTION. Admission, 25 cents. The entire valuable collection of the Academy, Open from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M., and from 7 1/2 to 10 P. M.

PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN MAIL STEAMSHIP CO., Office, No. 139 S. THIRD STREET. From this date goods intended for Mobile or points beyond New Orleans, reached by our connecting lines, must be well strapped if in boxes, and securely covered if in trunks, otherwise they will not be received by this company. WM. L. JAMES, General Agent.

ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, 17TH APRIL, THE SPRUCE AND PINE STREETS PASSENGER RAILWAY COMPANY will run their cars through from the Exchange to Fairmount Park for one fare. 43 1/2 M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE subscribers to the Capital Stock of "THE PENNSYLVANIA BANK" that a meeting will be held at No. 144 S. SIXTH STREET, on THURSDAY, the 28th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of organizing said Bank and electing officers and directors. D. B. MCGINLEY, CHARLES A. MILLER, R. D. BARCLAY, J. B. WALKER, General Agents.

CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD AND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY. OFFICE, TRENTON, N. J., April 11, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Camden and Amboy Railroad and Transportation Company will be held in Trenton, New Jersey, at the Company's Office, on TUESDAY, the 10th of May, 1870, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the election of seven Directors to serve for the ensuing year. SAMUEL J. BAYARD, Secretary C. & A. R. & T. Co.

GOOD SPRING RAILROAD COMPANY, OFFICE, No. 227 S. FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1870. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company, and an election for President and six Managers, will take place at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, the 23rd day of May next, at 11 o'clock A. M. ALBERT FOSTER, Secretary.

NORTHERN LIBERTIES AND PENN TOWNSHIP R. R. CO., Office No. 227 S. FOURTH STREET. PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1870. The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for officers to serve for the ensuing year, shall be held at the office of the Company on MONDAY, the 24th day of May next, at 12 o'clock A. M. ALBERT FOSTER, Secretary.

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TREGO'S TEABERRY TOOTHWASH. It is the most pleasant, cheapest and best dentifrice extant. Warranted free from injurious ingredients. It Preserves and Whitens the Teeth; Invigorates and Soothes the Gums; Purifies and Perfumes the Breath; Prevents Accumulation of Tartar; Cleanses and Purifies Artificial Teeth; Is a Superior Article for Children! Sold by all druggists and dentists. A. M. WILSON, Druggist, Proprietor, 52 1/2 M. COR. NINTH AND FILBERT STS., PHILADELPHIA.

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